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**Title:**

Statement - World Council of Churches consultation on Racism

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STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, HON. DON DUNSTAN,  
Q.C., M.P.

11-7-69.

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The World Council of Churches Consultation on Racism succeeded in bringing to a head the rage and frustration, for it is nothing less, of many groups of coloured people in the world today and the way in which they are discriminated against, exploited, prevented from gaining opportunities for developing and fulfilling their talents. It was made quite clear that in their eyes the Church had failed in its duty to take action as an institution against Racism, had failed to expose it, had failed to fight it.

The delegates who heard from the leaders of existing Church institutions words of support and fellow-feeling, bitterly rejected them and said that they had had more than enough of pious and ineffective statements. In the result, the recommendations of the World Council of Churches took a form much more radical than has ever been known in this area before and recommended that the World Council take action as Church institutions to apply economic sanctions against corporations and institutions which practice Racism, but as institutions they set out to influence Governments, also to practice economic sanctions to ensure racial justice; that the World Council and its member churches support the principle of reparations to exploited peoples and countries should recognize the churches' own involvement in exploitation and duty to make reparation, and that all else failing, the Church and its member churches support resistant movements including revolutions which are aimed at the elimination of that political or economic tyranny which makes Racism possible. Anyone who took part in this meeting must have appreciated the urgency of this problem. Unless we act now, then by the majority of the world population, not only the European races, the whole christian church will be counted the enemy.

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